

**Workforce Development Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services
Embassy Suites by Hilton Richmond
2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294
August 1, 2019
10:00a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Others:
Valerie Quick , Chair	Byron Andrews , VSFA	Tim Perkins	Amy Ashe , PEMS
Gene Dalton , WVEMS Council		Chris Vernovai	R. Jason Ferguson , AB
Paul Hoyle , PEMS		Hannah Lyons	
Valeta Daniels , Advisory Board			
Dreama Chandler , VAVRS			
Mike Watkins , VAGEMSA			
Christopher Payne			
David Tesh , VA Recruitment & Retention Network			
Cody Jackson , Med-Trans Corp./Wings Air Rescue – Commercial Ambulance Member			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Call to Order and Introductions	The meeting was called to order by Valerie Quick at 10:02 am.	
II. Review and Approval of May 2, 2019 Minutes	A motion was made to review and approve the May meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as submitted. Everyone around the room introduced themselves.	May 3, 2019 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.
III. Chair's Report:	The chair reported that there was difficulty getting the workforce the correct type of training, which continues to be an issue. R. Jason Ferguson explained his survey plan and methodology. He indicated why he included certain factors, such as pay, so that when the data is examined the relationships between factors can be better understood.	
IV. OEMS Report – Chris Vernovai	Chris Vernovai announced that there is a Mobile Integrated Healthcare opportunity coming up. He said he would email the advertisement to the committee once it is prepared. Mr. Vernovai reported that a number of OEMS employees still do not have cubicles in the office, but the estimated completion date is now the end of August. OEMS has also hired Caron Nazario as the new OEMS Emergency Operations Planner, and Narad Mishra as the new Epidemiologist Senior.	
V. EMS Officer – Chris	Chris Vernovai stated there was a class scheduled for next week at the First Responder Virginia Conference, but	

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Vernovai	<p>there was trouble with registration. Last Thursday, VAVRS decided that the class be cancelled (although OEMS had previously agreed to wait until the following Monday) because only seven people signed up which did not meet the twelve person minimum. There have been issues in the past with this registration and they are trying to work them out. Mr. Vernovai does have the email they sent the students that registered for the class and he has contacted them to clarify the cancellation. He reported that OEMS is considering offering another class with a registration priority for these students. Mr. Vernovai also reported that the officer class at symposium filled with 30 people in 3 days.</p> <p>Mr. Vernovai stated that Bob has compiled all the videos needed, and the LMS materials will be a welcomed addition to the program. Mr. Vernovai's division wants to have another opportunity to test the program before the 30 person class at symposium. He also expressed his division's desire to incorporate more role play type activities versus solely working on charts for the program.</p> <p>Another instructor was to be onboarded at the Hampton class: George Keefer, who is a retired DoD firefighter and is now the training captain in Culpeper. The instructor pool is being built, slowly but surely. There was poor attendance for the VAVRS rescue college class for both days on which it was offered due to its registration process.</p>	
VI. Standards of Excellence – Chris Vernovai	A number of applicants are in revisits that must be sent out.	
VII. Virginia Recruitment and Retention – Dave Tesh	David Tesh reported that the last Virginia Recruitment and Retention meeting was held in Virginia Beach, and the next is scheduled to be in conjunction with Albemarle county. The meetings are being spaced out more, but are still working out well. The next is scheduled for Saturday, October 12 th , 2019. If more information is needed, Karen McQuaid can be contacted. She can add individuals to the distribution list.	
VIII. Unfinished Business	<p>A. Keeping the Best Tool Kit – Dave Tesh John Bianco helped our class work out well, and attendance was satisfactory. Next Friday is the next class in Hampton which will be part of the first annual First Responder Virginia Conference. After this they will decide if the location will remain the same in coming years. Dreama Chandler added that she heard there are 900 people registered thus far.</p> <p>B. EMS Provider Survey – Chris Vernovai The AG said everything was good to go on the provider survey. R. Jason Ferguson's survey and the mental health survey just went out - so if another survey is released right now, the responses will most likely be very few. It is better right now to focus on assembling the agency survey. The quality of the data is more important than the time frame of getting the survey results back.</p> <p>C. EMS Agency Survey – Chris Vernovai Tim Perkins and Chris Vernovai have been discussing a time frame or schedule for the agency survey, because surveys are currently being released randomly. It was questioned if the super user was the person to which they wanted to send the survey, and Mr. Vernovai conceded that it probably was not the best</p>	

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	<p>idea. Mr. Watkins suggested that the survey be sent to the agency head or chief.</p> <p>D. State EMS Plan – Chris Vernovai Almost all of the different committees’ data have been received. The draft should be completed by the end of August when all of the data is compiled.</p>	
IX. New Business	<p>A committee member requested the status of the onboarding of the newly contracted EMS trainers. There are six or seven new contractors that have been on-boarded, and one program for them to receive training.</p> <p>Significant discussion regarding Kathy West and her classes occurred. Some committee members expressed worry that the classes did not cater to the size of the hospital, and that the classes may not be adequate. Others were concerned that Kathy is the only one offering those classes, and were something to happen to her the whole program would be on hold. On the other hand, another committee member pointed out that Kathy West’s presence encourages cooperation from hospitals.</p> <p>However, there was consensus with Chair Valerie Quick that it is unwise to rely on a system consisting of only one person. Instead, there should exist a template from the state that dictates that all hospitals and public offices must relinquish to the state certain information within a 48 hour time period after receiving a request. There are other states that do a better job with this. A common problem is that many entities obtain blood incorrectly from decedents which invalidates the blood. In order to fully address this issue, since it’s hard to regulate in other states too, regulations must be centralized so that everyone has a document or policy to which they can refer. Included also must be funeral directors and bystanders that have access to decedent blood. The protocol is very specific and hospitals do not understand their role in that the way they should.</p> <p>It was suggested that Kathy West’s beginner and advanced courses be abolished and replaced with one comprehensive course. Likewise, there should be a reference document to which they can refer. Chair Valerie Quick informed the committee that that would be just an EMS specific requirement since certain offices do not use EMS (firehouses, police stations). Chris Vernovai added that Chad Blosser just told him that it is their intention to use the local regional trainers to help with the infectious control classes. They are working on a curriculum for them to teach. This is between the ACE and Regulation & Compliance Divisions to work out between themselves.</p> <p>Mike Watkins helped the committee find where on the OEMS website they could find the already on-boarded local regional trainers listed.</p> <p>Dreama Chandler asked the committee if anyone was working with VAVRS. Karen was always the one to communicate with everyone but she passed away. Chris Vernovai stated that this question is for the Regulation and Compliance Division.</p> <p>There is a requirement that individuals have to retake a certain class after five years’ time that OEMS says Kathy West mandated, but Ms. West says OEMS mandated. However, no one is following up on mandate. When OEMS</p>	<p>OEMS Regulations and Compliance Officer Ron Passmore clarifies that the VAVRS DICO is approved by OEMS.</p>

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	<p>checks Chair Valerie Quick’s certifications they check solely to ensure completion of the training. Chair Valerie Quick stated that the whole process needs to be examined.</p> <p>One of the last issues brought before the committee regarded former service members. Chris Payne expressed that he wants OEMS to be a resource to members who leave the US Military so that OEMS can guide veterans in finding avenues for their training to transmit to joining the civilian workforce. He mentioned that it would be a good opportunity for recruiting and retention. Chair Valerie Quick stated that those veterans would need to be nationally registered to come back in. R. Jason Ferguson expressed that individual colleges could determine what the standards are. They are also considering a TCC, though not every program will be a VCCS program. A committee member concurred.</p>	
X. Public Comment	<p>There was much discussion about regulations.</p> <p>R. Jason Ferguson pointed out that this meeting is scheduled at the same time as the Medevac meeting. He asked if everyone would like to move this meeting to 11am, and made a motion. The motion to move the Workforce Development committee meeting to 11am was approved.</p> <p>Vernovai reminded the committee that the symposium meeting is Friday, November 8th at 10:00am.</p>	R. Jason Ferguson made a motion to move the Workforce Development meeting to 11am. The motion was approved.
XII. Adjournment	Chair Valerie Quick made a motion to adjourn at 11:04 am.	